

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

March 14, 2007

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Darrell Kasner, 48, of Arpin, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to highway project fraud.

Darrell Kasner owned Kasner's Transport Inc. in Wood County, Wisconsin. Kasner's Transport owned two dump trucks providing transport services for hire by contractors in road building and other construction industries. On Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WISDOT) and other federal-aid jobs, Kasner is obligated to pay its drivers the higher of the federal or state prevailing wage. To demonstrate compliance with prevailing wage laws, subcontractors like Kasner must submit certified payroll records showing employee hours and wage rates.

From August 2002 to September of 2003, Kasner was hired by Ames Construction to provide transport services on the Highway 10 project near Winchester, Wisconsin. During this federally-funded project, Kasner paid his drivers approximately \$14 an hour. The prevailing wage for this job was approximately \$30 an hour. To conceal his underpayment to drivers, Kasner caused the production of false certified payrolls. These documents falsely showed Kasner employees working fewer hours and

being paid the prevailing wage. As a result of Kasner's underpayment, the loss to the drivers totaled approximately \$24,000.

U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz scheduled sentencing for May 23, 2007, at 1:15 pm. Kasner faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The charges against Kasner were the result of an investigation conducted by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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